

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00
L-03 SS-15 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /061 W
-----082385 191644Z /72

O R 191710Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0313
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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BONN/THE HAGUE FOR DEPUTY ASST. SECY. ATWOOD

E. O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: EAIR, FR
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US-FRANCE BILATERAL ISSUES

REF: PARIS 12581, STATE 97936

1. CLAUDE-LAFONTAINE (QUAI D'ORSAY) TOLD CIVIL AIR ATTACHE APRIL 19 THAT IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSING PANAM CHANGE OF GUAGE ISSUE AND NICE-MEXICO BLIND SECTOR QUESTION, GOF INTENDS TO RAISE TWA FIFTH FREEDOM OPERATIONS AT APRIL 24 DISCUSSION AND HOPES THAT US DEL WILL BE PREPARED FOR AT LEAST PRELIMINARY EXPLORATION OF TOPIC. SHE REITERATED INTENSE INTEREST OF GOF IN STATISTICS PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED AND SAID THAT FRENCH DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THEY CANNOT BE SUPPLIED BY CARRIER SINCE THEY HAVE BEEN REQUESTED IN EXACTLY THE SAME FORMAT THAT US CAB USES FOR RE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUIRING STATISTICS OF CARRIERS.

2. IN DISCUSSION THAT SAME DAY WITH COLETTE RIVOAL (DIRECTOR FOR BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS, AIR FRANCE, WHO WILL BE OBSERVER ON GOF DELEGATION APRIL 24, SHE PROVIDED ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON PANAM AND TWA ISSUES.
RE CHANGE OF GUAGE, SHE STATED, STRONG CONCERN

OF AIR FRANCE ON THIS QUESTION IS BASED ON PROVISION
OF BERMUDA II UNDER WHICH U.S. CARRIERS HAVE RIGHT
TO CONSOLIDATE TRAFFIC TO/ FROM VARIOUS EUROPEAN POINTS
AT LONDON TO/FROM VARIOUS U.S. POINTS ON THEIR SYSTEMS.
AIR FRANCE SEES PANAM INSISTENCE ON CHANGE OF GAUGE AS
NOT MERELY A TEMPORARY MEASURE TO FACILITATE AN
IMMEDIATE EQUIPMENT PROBLEM, BUT PART OF A LONG RANGE
STRATEGY TO PROVIDE FEEDER SERVICE BETWEEN PARIS AND
LONDON IN RELATION TO MOVEMENTS ELSEWHERE IN THE
UNITED STATES. SUCH A STRATEGY, HOWEVER MAINTAINED,
WILL HAVE AS ITS EFFECT A PERMANENT REDUCTION IN RE-
VENUE OPPORTUNITIES FOR AIR FRANCE ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC.

3. TWA'S SERVICES EAST OF PARIS, SHE MAINTAINED, AS
HAD ESPEROED PREVIOUSLY, ARE CAUSING CONCERN BECAUSE OF
RECENT INCREASE IN VOLUME. THIS CONCERN RELATES
PRINCIPALLY TO CAIRO AND TEL AVIV. TWA TRAFFIC BETWEEN
THESE POINTS AND PARIS (SHE DID NOT DISTINGUISH AMONG
TEL AVIV AND CAIRO), SHE SAID, HAS RECENTLY INCREASED
TO THE POINT WHERE TWA'S FIFTH FREEDOM OPERATIONS IN-
VOLVE BETWEEN 25 AND 30 PERCENT OF THE MARKET -- A FIG-
URE MUCH TOO HIGH FOR THE THIRD AND FOURTH FREEDOM

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OPERATORS. (AS AN ASIDE, SHE NOTED THAT THERE IS MORE CONCERN ABOUT THIS VOLUME OF OPERATIONS ON THE PART OF EGYPTAIR (AND SHE IMPLIED THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT) THAN ON THE PART OF EL AL AND THE ISRAELIS.) AIR FRANCE, SHE SAID, MUST PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF ITS PARTNERS IN THE POOL AND COMMERCIAL UNDERSTANDINGS AS WELL AS ITS OWN. THUS IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ARRANGEMENTS BE MADE PROMPTLY FOR COMMENCING A REDUCTION IN THE TWA VOLUME. SINCE US CARRIERS CAN NOT DEAL DIRECTLY WITH FOREIGN CARRIERS, SHE SAID, THIS MUST BECOME A MATTER FOR TWO GOVERNMENTS AND AIR FRANCE IS PUSHING STRONGLY FOR AN ASSERTIVE POLICY BY THE GOF.

4. COMMENTS: IN ADDITION TO THESE QUESTIONS, US DEL SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THERE MAY BE AN AIR FARES ISSUE DEVELOPING THAT PERHAPS SHOULD BE TOUCHED UPON NEXT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WEEK. TWA PARIS HAS ADVISED US THAT IT CAN NOT OFFER THE MID-WEEK FARE, BECAUSE OF ITS SCHEDULING AND THROUGH -TRAFFIC VOLUMES, UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS AS AIR FRANCE. IT HAS REQUESTED AN EASING OF THE CONDITIONS TO FACILITATE ITS COMPETING WITH AIR FRANCE IN THIS SPECIAL MARKET, ESPECIALLY FOR THE PERIOD AFTER MAY 1, BUT HAS BEEN UNABLE AS OF TODAY TO GET A RESPONSE FROM DGAC. WE TOLD TWA THAT ITS WASHINGTON OFFICE SHOULD PROMPTLY BRIEF STATE DEPARTMENT ON QUESTIONS, IN CASE REQUEST IS TURNED DOWN AND WE NEED TO MAKE QUICK REPRESENTATIONS.

5. NOTE: QUAI D'ORSAY HAS INVITED USDEL TO WORKING LUNCH ON APRIL 24. WE HAVE TENTATIVELY ACCEPTED ON ITS BEHALF.
HARTMAN

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